

1 (Marked-up version of the amended claims)

2 Please amend the claims as follows:

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4 --23. (Amended) An [A] improved time of flight mass spectrometer  
5 comprising:

6 a multideflector for deflecting ions from an ion path  
7 consisting of more than two bipolar deflection plates each  
8 comprising a pair of metal plates separated from one another by  
9 an insulator, said bipolar deflection plates being arranged  
10 across said ion path in such a way that, during a given passage  
11 through said multideflector, each of said ions must pass between  
12 two and only two adjacent bipolar deflection plates; and

13 a detector for detecting said ions;

14 wherein each of said metal plates is energized to a  
15 potential and the potentials of the metal plates of each pair  
16 have opposite polarities.

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18 34. (Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A  
19 multideflector] according to claim 31 wherein the distance  
20 between adjacent bipolar deflection plates varies as a function  
21 of position within the multideflector.

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1 35. (Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A  
2 multideflector] according to claim 34 wherein the bipolar  
3 deflection plates are curved.

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5 36. (Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A  
6 multideflector] according to claim 23 wherein the potentials on  
7 the conducting electrodes is held constant.

8  
9 37. (Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A  
10 multideflector] according to claim 23 wherein the potentials on  
11 the conducting electrodes is varied as a function of time.

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13 38. (Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A  
14 multideflector] according to claim 32 wherein the potentials on  
15 the conducting electrodes is held constant.

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17 39. (Amended) An improved time of flight mass spectrometer [A  
18 multideflector] according to claim 32 wherein the potentials on  
19 the conducting electrodes is varied as a function of time.

1 42. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
2 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the total thickness  
3 of each bipolar deflector plate is in order of 0.1 mm.  
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5 43. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
6 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the insulator  
7 consists of polyamide layer.  
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9 44. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
10 spectrometer] according to claim 42 wherein the insulator  
11 consists of polyamide layer.  
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13 45. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
14 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the bipolar  
15 deflection plates are curved.  
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17 46. (Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
18 spectrometer] according to claim 42 wherein the bipolar  
19 deflection plates are curved.  
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1 47.(Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
2 spectrometer] according to claim 43 wherein the bipolar  
3 deflection plates are curved.

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5 48.(Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
6 spectrometer] according to claim 44 wherein the bipolar  
7 deflection plates are curved.

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9 49.(Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
10 spectrometer] according to claim 41 wherein the bipolar  
11 deflection plates are placed adjacent and parallel to one another  
12 such that each metal plate of every bipolar deflection plate is  
13 facing the metal plate of the adjacent bipolar deflection plate  
14 which has the opposite polarity.

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16 50.(Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
17 spectrometer] according to claim 49 wherein the distance between  
18 adjacent bipolar deflection plates is a constant.

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20 51.(Amended) A multideflector [An improved time of flight mass  
21 spectrometer] according to claim 50 wherein the bipolar defection  
22 plates are curved.--

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1 employs a single electrically insulating carrier plate (See Le  
2 Poole col. 7, lines 58-60). In contradistinction, claim 41 of  
3 the subject application claims, *inter alia*, a multideflector  
4 consisting of more than two bipolar deflection plates each  
5 consisting of a pair of electrically conducting electrodes  
6 energized to potentials of opposite polarities. Nowhere in Le  
7 Poole is this either taught or suggested. Thus, Le Poole cannot  
8 be found to anticipate claim 41 of the subject application since  
9 Le Poole fails to teach each and every element claimed therein.  
10 Therefore, applicant respectfully request that this rejection be  
11 reconsidered and withdrawn.

12 Moreover, after careful review of the cited reference,  
13 applicant fails to see how each and every element of the claimed  
14 invention is disclosed therein. Consequently, applicant invites  
15 the Examiner to point out how Le Poole teaches each and every  
16 element of the invention claimed in claim 41.

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